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April 20, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

It is preposterous to think that the FDA is considering eliminating the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation," and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated whole foods. I am outraged by the fact that the FDA is even considering this. It's bad enough that the FDA approved irradiation in the first place. The only saving grace was that educated people could protect themselves by avoiding irradiated foods because they were labeled. Now who will protect the people, and our children from the irresponsible acts of the FDA?

I believe that irradiation is harmful. Radiation is a poison and does not belong on my food. It's as simple as that. Others (i.e. the powerful almighty lobbyists) may disagree, but it should be MY CHOICE not to eat foods treated with radiation. How can I make a choice without labels? Is the only way to protect ourselves from the FDA is to grow all of our own food? It would seem so.

I don't want myself or my children to become guinea pigs like the people who were told that thalidomide was safe. It's time that the FDA started looking out for the people rather than the lobbyists. America's health and the health of our children and our future should take precedence over the almighty dollar. The FDA has the health and the lives of the American People in it's hands.

FOR GOD'S SAKE HELP US!!!!

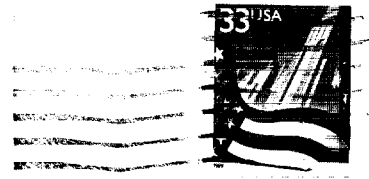
Sincerely,



Alicia Amaral

98N-1038

CPSU



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FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
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